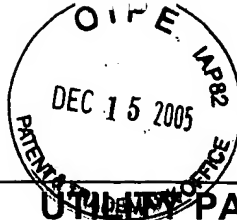


EXHIBIT A



UNITED STATES PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

Submit an original and a duplicate for fee processing
(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

ADDRESS TO:

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Attorney Docket No. 01-1333-C
First Named Inventor Dick T. Van Manen
Express Mail No. EV334706918US

APPLICATION ELEMENTS

1. ☒ Transmittal Form with Fee
2. ☒ Specification (including claims and abstract) [Total Pages 10]
3. ☒ Drawings [Total Sheets 1]
4. ☒ Oath or Declaration [Total Pages 2]
 - a. ☐ Newly executed
 - b. ☒ Copy from prior application
[Note Boxes 5 and 18 below]
 - i. ☐ Deletion of Inventor(s) Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application
5. ☒ Incorporation by Reference: The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference therein.
6. ☐ Computer Code Listing (See 1.96)
 - a. ☐ Microfiche Appendix
 - b. ☐ CD-Rom (in duplicate, with separate transmittal)
7. ☐ Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission
 - a. ☐ Computer Readable Copy
 - b. ☐ Paper Copy
 - c. ☐ Statement verifying above copies
8. ☐ Small Entity Status
 - ☐ is claimed
 - ☐ Statement filed in prior application; status still proper and desired
 - ☐ is no longer claimed.

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

9. ☐ Assignment Papers
10. ☐ Power of Attorney
11. ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)
12. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
 - ☐ PTO-1449 Form
 - ☐ Copies of IDS Citations
13. ☐ Preliminary Amendment
14. ☒ Return Receipt Postcard (Should be specifically itemized)
15. ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
16. ☐ A Request for non-publication pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 122(b)(2)(B)(i)
17. ☒ Other: Application Data Sheet

18. ☒ This is a CONTINUING APPLICATION. Please note the following:

- a. ☒ This is a ☐ Continuation ☒ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part of prior U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/161,202.
- b. ☒ Cancel in this application original claims 13-31 of the prior application before calculating the filing fee. (Claims 1-12 remain in the present application.)
- c. ☒ Amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence:
This is a ☐ continuation ☒ divisional ☐ continuation-in-part of application Serial No. 10/161,202.
- d. ☒ The prior application is assigned of record to Meridian Automotive Systems, Inc.

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

Attorney Docket No. 01-1333-A

APPLICATION FEES

BASIC FEE				\$ 750.00
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	
Total Claims	12 -20 =	0	x \$18.00	\$
Independent Claims	1 - 3 =	0	x \$84.00	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple Dependent Claims(s) if applicable			+\$280.00	\$
Total of above calculations =				\$ 750.00
Reduction by 50% for filing by small entity =				\$()
<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment fee if applicable			+\$40.00	\$
TOTAL =				\$ 750.00

19. ☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. 13-2490 in the amount of \$20. ☒ A check in the amount of \$750.00 is enclosed.

21. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit overpayments or charge any additional fees of the following types to Deposit Account No. 13-2490:

- a. ☒ Fees required under 37 CFR 1.16.
- b. ☒ Fees required under 37 CFR 1.17.
- c. ☐ Fees required under 37 CFR 1.18.

22. The Commissioner is hereby generally authorized under 37 CFR 1.136(a)(3) to treat any future reply in this or any related application filed pursuant to 37 CFR 1.53 requiring an extension of time as incorporating a request therefor, and the Commissioner is hereby specifically authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 13-2490 for any fee that may be due in connection with such a request for an extension of time.

23. CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

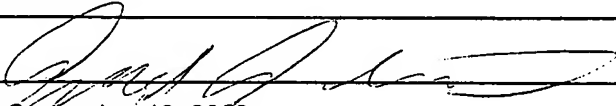
I hereby certify that, under 37 CFR § 1.10, I directed that the correspondence identified above be deposited with the United States Postal Service as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee," addressed to Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

24. USPTO CUSTOMER NUMBER

20306

McDonnell Boehnen Hulbert & Berghoff

25. SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name	Grantland G. Druchas
Reg. No.	32,565
Signature	
Date	September 19, 2003

UTIL (Rev. 11/21/00)